PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN  
(In honor of the legacy of Walter Rauschenbusch)

Dear Creator,
we acknowledge in this moment
that we are all your children,
without regard to creed,
race, nationality or faith orientation.

And we also acknowledge
your special concern for the
impoverished, the oppressed,
the hungry, the infirmed
children, both here in our nation
and the millions throughout the earth.

Our prayer is for the ability
to see all the wounded children
of this earth,
with eyes of compassion,
just as Jesus saw them,
to literally ‘suffer with’
those who are victimized
by the forces of structural evil.

We confess our own complicity,
our complacency, our apathy
with a world that produces
so great a disparity as now exists
between those of us
who are privileged
and those whose lives are
constantly in peril
for lack of their days’ manna.

We ask forgiveness
because we realize our profession
and our beliefs
are not always matched by practice,
the practice of justice,
the practice of peace.

We ask for courage
to do the deeds,
to take the steps
that will truly make the world
a community
where we put aside
the idols of power,
the idols of empire,
the idols of militarism,
the idols of world supremacy,
the idols of greed.

And as we pray,
we also acknowledge
your abundant Grace that is
offered to all of your children.
May our lives be lived as an
expression of our gratitude
of that unconditional love
as we love unconditionally
all the children of the world.